IN THE SPECIFICATION

The following amendments to the specification are being made to add clarity to the application and are supported by the original specification and claims. Therefore Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Please amend the specification as follows:

Add the following to the Brief Description of the Figures:

Figure 6 illustrates an alternate embodiment of the present invention having the hatch and drop deck located at the front of the vehicle.

Figure 7 illustrates an alternate embodiment of the present invention including a second hatch on an adjacent body panel.

Figure 8 illustrates a vehicle of the present invention having means to prevent the vehicle from moving.

Please Amend the Detailed Description of the Invention as Follows:

Amend the paragraph starting on page 6, line 18 of the original specification as follows:

Figure 1 illustrates a perspective view, and not by way of limitation, of one embodiment of the present invention on a vehicle generally indicated as 20. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate side views. The vehicle 20 has a body 54 mounted to a chassis 40 comprising a drop deck 24. The body 54 has body walls such as a pair of side walls 22 and an interior

wall 28. The body walls, in combination with the drop deck 24, a ceiling 26, and a hatch 30, generally define a storage compartment 32 to enclose an auxiliary load. The hatch 30 can be hingedly attached and be part of a body wall or the entire body wall. As illustrated, the hatch 30 is a rear wall configuration. In the rear wall configuration, the storage compartment 32 is located in the rear of the vehicle 20 and the hatch 30 is located on the rear wall of the vehicle 20. Other configurations to practice the present invention ~~(not shown)~~ could include placing the storage compartment 32 in the front of the vehicle 20 and placing the hatch 30 on a front wall as shown in Figure 6. In this embodiment, the required towing apparatus which is normally located at the front of the vehicle may be detachable to allow clearance to load and unload the auxiliary load. Also, the ceiling 26 could alternately extend to the roof of the vehicle 20. ~~or to the~~ The vehicle 20 could also include a second hatch 68 ~~hatch 30~~ located on either side or both sides ~~(adjacent)~~ of the vehicle 20 as shown in Figure 7. Thus ~~T~~two hatches 30 and 68 can be located in adjacent body walls.

Amend the paragraph starting on page 7, line 8 of the original specification as follows:

Many features can be added to add to the utility of the present invention. Interior surfaces of the storage compartment 32 (side walls 22, drop deck 24, ceiling 26, interior wall 28 and hatch 30) can be lined with materials to create a rated firewall or reinforced to allow points to secure an auxiliary load (contents) of the storage compartment 32 during

transport. The reinforcement can also contain the auxiliary load if it shifts or breaks loose from its securing means. This can minimize damage or injury to the vehicle as well as surrounding vehicles. An access door 27 ~~(not shown)~~ to other interior spaces of the vehicle 20 can be added to the interior wall 28 or ceiling 26 to allow accessibility to the interior spaces of the vehicle 20. Vehicle 20 may include additional interior space 55 located above storage compartment 32 as shown in Figures 2 and 3. Lights 34 can be added within the storage compartment 32 and can be switchable using a variety of means known in the art. The hatch 30 can be raised with the assistance of at least one gas shock 36 known in the art. The gas shock 36 can have one ~~gas shock 36~~ end attached to a hatch ~~30~~ edge 31 and a second ~~gas shock~~ end attached to the vehicle body 54, thereby assisting in raising the hatch 30 and holding the hatch 30 in an open position as illustrated in the figures. Motorized or other types of mechanical mechanisms could also be added (not shown) to assist in raising the hatch 30 or holding the hatch 30 in an open position.

Amend the paragraph starting on page 8, line 17 of the original specification as follows:

In the lowered position, the drop deck 24 allows easy deployment of the auxiliary loads such as motorcycles, snowmobiles, personal watercraft and other types of vehicles in a small space while having none of the disadvantages of the prior art. Loading and unloading of the auxiliary load can be assisted with an optional winch device 49, and cable 50. Winch device 49 may be attached to the storage compartment 32 on an interior

surface ~~adjacent to the hatch 30~~. The ~~cable of the~~ winch device 49 and cable 50 can be made of any material capable of hauling a desired load.

Amend the paragraph starting on page 8, line 24 of the original specification as follows:

In the raised position, the drop deck 24 allows sufficient clearance for normal road conditions when adjacent to the chassis 40. The vehicle 20 can have the means to secure the drop deck 24 to an underside of the chassis 40. The drop deck 24 can have at least one post 44 attached to each of the drop deck 24 edges and each of the drop deck 24 edges having a post stop 46. The post stop 46 can be configured to be adjacent and corresponding to a releasable latching device 48 attached to the chassis 40 or the body 54 configured to receive the post stop 46. The latching devices 48 ~~are~~ is configured to support the drop deck 24 and the auxiliary load in a closed position. Several means to latch and unlatch the post stops 46 are possible and are well known in the art. The latching device 48 can be electrically or mechanically activated to release the post stops 46 to allow lowering of the drop deck 24.

Amend the paragraph starting on page 9, line 10 of the original specification as follows:

Figure 4 illustrates a perspective view of an embodiment of the present invention including devices to assist in the loading and unloading of certain types of the auxiliary loads stored within the storage compartment 32. In this embodiment watercraft such as

personal watercraft can be launched from th vehicle 20 through the use of a wheel d dolly 52 that is lowered and retrieved from the storage compartment 32 by the winch device 49 and cable 50. The wheeled dolly 52 can be configured to assist in lowering or retrieving a variety of auxiliary loads.

Amend the paragraph starting on page 9, line 17 of the original specification as follows:

An alternate embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in Figure 5 with the drop deck 24 in a level lowered position. Here, the drop deck 24 is configured without the hinge or hinges 42. The drop deck 24 can be raised and lowered in a level position using hydraulic lift cylinders 38 that simultaneously raise and lower the drop deck 24 like an elevator. This allows the drop deck 24 to be lowered, raised and stored in a level plane. The amount of chassis 40 overhang from the wheel as well as ~~and~~ vehicle 20 size ~~would~~ may limit the drop deck 24 size. ~~In this configuration, the storage compartment 32 could even be used as a semi-enclosed porch.~~

Amend the paragraph starting on page 10, line 1 of the original specification as follows:

As shown in Figure 8, the ~~The~~ present invention can also include a means to prevent the vehicle 20 from moving when the drop deck 24 is in a lowered position, or to prevent the drop deck 24 from lowering if the vehicle 20 has the potential to move. For example, a "kill" switch 66 ~~(not shown)~~ could be used to monitor the presence of a PRNDL

gear sel ctor position ~~and~~ or the position of the drop deck 24. A PRNDL gear selector position sensor 64 may be attached to the kill switch 66. If the gear selector is not in "Park," the operator of vehicle 20 ~~operator~~ could be prohibited from lowering the drop deck 24. ~~Further~~Likewise, if the drop deck 24 is lowered, the operator could be prohibited from taking the gear selector out of "Park." An Indicator lamp[[s]] 62 may be used ~~would also be useful to let~~ to inform the operator ~~know~~ of the position of the drop deck 24. Indicator lamp 62 may be connected to the PRNDL gear selector position sensor 64 or the drop deck sensor 64. ~~These functions can use various sensor means known in the art such as a drop deck position sensor connected to an indicator means such as a lamp or a sound to alert the vehicle 20 operator of the position of the drop deck 24, or PRNDL gear selector position sensor attached to a controller or a "kill" switch.~~